

The Daily Charge

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"Telling the MND-Baghdad Story"

Thursday, Nov. 16, 2006



(Photo by Sgt. Ann Drier, 363rd MPAD)

America's First Team Takes Over

Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr. (left) and Command Sgt. Maj. Phillip Johndrow (right) uncase the 1st Cavalry Division flag during a Transfer of Authority ceremony on Camp Liberty, Iraq Nov. 15. The "First Team" takes over control of the Multi-National Division - Baghdad from the 4th Infantry Division, who now returns to its Fort Hood, Texas home. (See article Page 3)

Troops Build Bonds With Yusufiyah Residents

By Capt. Chris Sanchez
4th Bn., 31st Inf. Regt.

PATROL BASE YUSUFİYAH, Iraq - The Soldiers of 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, conduct daily patrols in Yusufiyah, a small community approximately 20 miles south of Baghdad, to provide security to the population of the town. But a patrol on Nov. 3 was a bit personal mission than a simple security mission.

Soldiers from Company D, 4-31 Inf. Regt., 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, moved through the city on foot to interact with local residents. They hoped to establish relationships that will last for their entire tour.

Schools in Yusufiyah are now in session, and as the Soldiers patrolled the streets at 8 a.m., many children were on their way to school.

"People are feeling more comfortable

with us on foot patrols," said Pfc. Timothy Grom, a gunner with Co. D's 1st Platoon and a native of Clarksville, Tenn. "They are talking to us a lot more than when we first got here."

Troops took photos of key sites in town, such as mosques and schools, to aid in planning for civil-military operations.

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Brigade Women Answer Call to Duty

By Spc. Kate Huff
2nd BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait - Providing security for the area of Baghdad commonly referred to as the "Green Zone," is a 24-7 operation. And for the Soldiers of 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, that's exactly what they're looking forward to when they move into Iraq.

The Soldiers will man the entry control point at Camp Prosperity, a forward operating base located near a major checkpoint into Baghdad's city center.

However, because of the local culture, women who enter the FOB can only be searched by other females.

This posed a problem for the squadron, which had only eight women in its ranks.

To resolve this issue, 4-9 Cav. Regt.'s top noncommissioned officer, Command Sgt. Maj. James Daniels, turned to the



(Photo by Spc. Kate Huff, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.)

Female Soldiers from different 2nd Brigade Combat Team units were attached to Company D, Forward Support Company, 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, to create a platoon of female searchers to help secure the brigade's area of operations

brigade's other units for help.

"My organic organization didn't have enough, so I needed other units from the BSB (15th Brigade Support Battalion) and

the BSTB (2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion) to each provide 12 females a piece, so I could accomplish my mission," explained Daniels. The female Soldiers were either chosen or volunteered and all come from different military occupational specialties.

"Basically, our commander wanted to see all the females in our company one day after PT (physical training). He asked for volunteers, and then we moved to 4-9 (Cav. Regt.). The sergeant major put out what we were going to be doing - searching females - and if we wanted to go on patrols, they would be voluntary," said Sgt. Amanda Sweesy, a native of Haskins, Ohio, and a fire control systems repairer, previously with Company B, 15th BSB.

Even with the stress of having to switch units during a deployment, the Soldiers in the new, all-female platoon seem excited at the prospect of the new

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Arabic Phrase of the Day

shukran

**Defined:
Thank you**

Iraq 3-Day Forecast



Today

**High: 71
Low: 52**



Tomorrow

**High: 69
Low: 47**



Saturday

**High: 70
Low: 45**

Commanding General: Maj. Gen. Joseph Fil, Jr.
Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl
Command Information Officer: Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
Editor: Sgt. Nicole Kojetin

Contributing Writers: Sgt. 1st Class Kap Kim, Sgt. Robert Strain, Sgt. Paula Taylor, Spc. Alexis Harrison, Spc. Karl Johnson, Spc. Nathan Hoskins, Cpl. Robert Yde, Spc. Nathan Hoskins, Spc. Ben Fox, Pfc. Jeffrey Ledesma, Spc. Ryan Stroud, Pfc. Shea Butler,

Contact **Daily Charge** at VOIP 242-4093, DSN 318-847-1855 or e-mail david.j.larsen@mnd-b.army.mil.

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1st Cav. Div. Takes the Reigns in Baghdad

By Spc. Karl Johnson
363rd MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraqi -- Under the clear, morning skies of a promising new day in Baghdad, the 1st Cavalry Division took the reigns for Multi-National Division -- Baghdad from the 4th Infantry Division during a transfer of authority ceremony here Nov. 15.

The ceremony honored the hard work and sacrifices of the departing "Ironhorse Division," and looked forward to future challenges and successes to be garnered by the "First Team."

Presiding over the ceremony was Lt. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, commanding general, Multi-National Corps -- Iraq. Chiarelli, no stranger to the 1st Cav. Div., was well suited for his role. Less than two years ago, he commanded the "First Team" during their first rotation as MND-B.

"It seems like only yesterday that I led the 'First Team' here," said Chiarelli. "I know you will build on the exceptional success of the 4th Infantry Division. I have complete confidence that you (First Team) will make the difference."

"The TOA is a symbol of the commitment of the coalition to the people of Iraq," said Chiarelli. He emphasized that "our commitment has not wavered."

"This has indeed been a challenging time in Iraq," he noted. He said in this complex atmosphere, "... few victories happen fast and we can only succeed through perseverance."

The MNC-I commander said all Soldiers of 4th Inf. Div. should be proud of what they accomplished during their tenure in Baghdad. He said the Soldiers had a direct positive impact on the Iraqi people's day-to-day lives, including increased electricity, improved sewage systems and a monumental increase in trained Iraqi Security Forces.

"This is the decisive period in the campaign for Iraq," said Maj. Gen. James D. Thurman, commanding general, 4th Inf. Div. "Fighting side-by-side with Iraqi Security Forces, we have become brothers-in-arms, seeking a common goal."

The 4th Inf. Div. commander addressed an audience of Iraqi and



(Photo by Spc. Rodney Foliente, 4th Inf. Div. Public Affairs)

Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr. (left), commanding general of 1st Cavalry Division, Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli (center), commanding general of Multi-National Corps - Iraq, and Maj. Gen. James D. Thurman, commanding general of Multi-National Division - Baghdad and 4th Infantry Division, stride forward to kick off the Transfer of Authority ceremony at Nov. 15.

Coalition leaders, looking back on a year's worth of successes and sacrifices by his MND-B forces.

"Since January 7, the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines of the Coalition Forces, standing side by side with the 'jundis' (soldiers) and 'shurtas' (officers) of the Iraqi Security Forces, have courageously faced a determined enemy," he said. "They have fought the terrorists in the streets, farmlands and deserts of four provinces: Baghdad, Babil, Karbala and Najaf. Our combined efforts enabled a new, democratically-elected government to form and begin leading the Iraqi people, living in a free nation."

With the colors of his division cased and ready to accompany him home, Thurman's thoughts were focused on the efforts of his Soldiers and on the support of their families. With the crisp notes of the 1st Cav. Div. band accompanying the ceremony, Thurman passed on the mantle of MND-B with pride for his Soldiers and optimism for his successors.

Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil Jr., commanding general, 1st Cav. Div., uncased his colors and assumed command of the MND-B mission as the division colors changed

position in the honor guard procession.

"The First Team is committed to continue to improve the security situation, to build upon the work of the "Ironhorse Division," to work hand-in-hand with our brothers in the Iraqi Security Forces and to support those Iraqi forces as they move to the lead to assist the Iraqi people in achieving a more prosperous and peaceful future," said the MND-B commander.

With obvious pride in the troops of his new command, Fil closed by thanking the 4th Inf. Div. for their great efforts in providing a smooth transition with the Cav and took a moment to recognize all the forces that make up MND-B.

"While it is my honor to lead the First Team back to Baghdad, Multi-National Division -- Baghdad is so much more than just the 1st Cav. Div.," he said. "The ranks of Multi-National Division -- Baghdad are filled with our Iraqi partners, every service component of the U.S. military and Soldiers from nearly every active Army division in the inventory. I look forward to leading this amazing formation in an effort to help the good people of Iraq realize their destiny which is a safe and secure Iraq, where freedom reigns."



(Photo by Pfc. Jeffrey Ledesma, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Live the Legend

A contracted worker from the Qatar International Trading Company centers the 1st Cavalry Division sign above the entrance of the Multi-National Division-Baghdad headquarters building symbolizing America's First Team's return to Iraq Nov. 14, a day before the scheduled transfer of authority ceremony.

Women in the Force

Women

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mission.

"I think it'll be fun; I think it will be interesting," said Pfc. Amanda Tyler, a Tampa, Fla. native and military policeman who moved from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd BCT to be a part of the new unit. "I'm sure everyday will bring a different scenario."

The Soldiers of the new platoon, part of Co. D, Forward Support Company, 4-9 Cav. Regt., were told about their new mission and what exactly to expect from their chain of command.

"I talked to the 24

females, plus my eight, and they were all pretty excited. I broke down the mission, what they would be doing, and basically their new chain of command," added Daniels.

The Soldiers understand their role, and how to accomplish it.

"I'll be at the entry checkpoint, and whenever female Iraqis come through I have to search them," said Pvt. Dacey Shackelford, a supply specialist from Virginia Beach, Va., and formerly with HHC, 2nd BCT.

Shortly after arranging the platoon, the females went out and trained on an ECP lane, giving them the confidence to do it once they arrived in country.

Patrols Turn into Friendship in Yusufiyah

Roots

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Armed with the knowledge of building locations and conditions, the Soldiers can better prepare for defending the people of Yusufiyah against attacks and aid in repairing damage.

The Soldiers discussed on-going operations with the local populace, visiting shops and other buildings.

"I think things are going pretty good so far," said Pfc. Joseph Amzack, a rifleman who hails from Torrence, Calif. "Going out and doing patrols lets the people feel a little safer."

Yusufiyah has long been a hot spot in Operation Iraqi Freedom and continues to be an area of focus for both Iraqi and Multi-National Division-Baghdad forces.

"Our presence here is a good thing," said Sgt. Rasheem Reeves, a squad leader with 1st Plt. and a native of Fitchberg, Mass. "The locals are coming out more often to see us, and we are going out every



(Photo courtesy of 4th Bn., 31st Inf. Regt., 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div.)

An Iraqi interpreter (center) assists Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, as they discuss security with a merchant here Friday. The Soldiers spent the day building rapport with Yusufiyah's residents.

day, trying to let them know that we are here to stay."

After a successful patrol, the Soldiers

returned to their patrol base, prepared for future protective and combat patrols in the area.